GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION
KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to scrap/discontinue the freedom fighters` pension introduced in 1972;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to give a fresh look into the difficulties faced by the genuine freedom fighters in getting pension; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate their hardships?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.332 DUE FOR ANSWER ON DECEMBER 2000

(a) to (d): No such decision has been taken. A reference has been made in this regard to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. A final view in the matter will be taken only after taking into account the recommendations of the Committee. If at all, the scheme will be discontinued from a prospective date after due publicity and after considering all pending cases which have been received by the due date. Freedom fighters and their eligible dependants, who are already in receipt of pension, will continue to receive pension even after the closure of the scheme.

The scheme has been in operation for almost 28 years now and has benefited 1,64,347 freedom fighters as on 30.9.2000. Out of 13,547 applications processed during 1999-2000, most of which were review petitions, pension could be granted in 85 cases only. This is also true that the long operation of the scheme has given rise to many malpractices. Cases of submission of false/forged documents, concealment of material facts, etc have come to light and, as a result, pension has been suspended in 3,155 cases and cancelled in 1,456 cases, as on 30.9.2000. In recent years, a large number of court cases have been filed and about 1,400 cases involving grant of pension are pending in various courts.